

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application, with claims 1 and 10 being independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 5 of the outstanding Office Action that claims 1-18 would be allowable if the claim objections are overcome. For at least the reasons detailed below, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-18 should be considered allowed.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) stating that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner stated that features of claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 for a general value of B and for $B=3n$ must be shown.

Applicants have amended the figures. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Applicants, however, do note that although the drawings were amended to show that $B=3$ and $B=6$, the independent claims do not require that B has these specific values.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are two (2) sheets of corrected formal drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84 and are to replace sheets 2 and 3 of the drawings currently on record. The replacement drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

To Figs. 6 and 7, the reference label "B=3" was added, and to Figs. 9 and 10, the reference label "B=6" was added.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected formal drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the abstract. Applicants submit herewith a replacement abstract.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1-18 because of minor informalities. Applicants have amended the claims in an effort to correct these minor informalities and in an effort to place the claims in proper format for U.S. patent practice. Furthermore, Applicants note that these amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

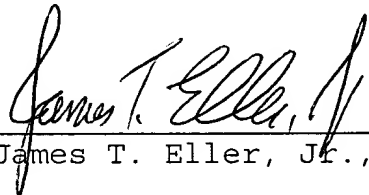
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. 51,011) at telephone

number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Replacement Drawings (2 sheets)
Replacement Abstract